

PARENTS NEWS

Dec/Jan 2014/15 No. 237 The First & Foremost Local Monthly Newspaper for Families

1993 - 2014
22nd Successful Year
Thank you

FREE

www.rarebreeds.org.uk

What's On in December/January

www.birdworld.co.uk

Three Editions in South-East England



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South West London & Surrey

Published on time, every time since 1993

www.parents-news.co.uk

www.fairfield.co.uk

London Wetlands Centre
www.wwt.org.uk

Christmas Gifts

Linkee gets a smart new facelift in time for Christmas 2014

- new questions, new look, new celebrity contributors, same shouty-outy game-play - *Linkee*, the cheeky trivia party game which liberated thousands of UK families from a Yuletide-yawnfest last Christmas, is back for 2014's festivities with a more sophisticated look and new sexy features: **All new questions**, 357 brand-spanking new *Linkee* to solve, a third of which have been crowd-sourced from *Linkee* fans during the past year... making it a bang-up-to-date mix of the current, the topical, the tricky and the downright daft.



Selfie Brush

The hottest social media tool for your selfies! Wet brush isa the number one selling detangling brush in the US and now it doubles up as a phone case The side of the brush has a handy slot for your iphone Available from www.sallyexpress.com



Godstone Farm
Rare Breeds & Animal Care

MEET FATHER CHRISTMAS

The elves will be waiting to greet you and guide you through the snowman archway.

Timmy, Ningo and their lovely shaggy friends will be eagerly awaiting for you to wander along and say hello.

Post your letter in the Godstone Farm Post Office to let Father Christmas know if you have been naughty or nice!

Finally, step into the Christmas cabin to meet the big most handsome who has a special gift for all the children who have been good this year!

Only £7.50 and over

Pre-book your tickets: 01883 742546

Delicious cake and a hot drink at the barn

For full details, dates and pricing pick up a leaflet in the gift shop or see www.godstonefarm.co.uk

Look no further than **ZSL London Zoo** for a wild present this Christmas



With just three months till Christmas, the countdown is in full swing and the *Zoological Society of London (ZSL)* has a selection of tempting treats sure to satisfy any festive wish list.



Grrrr-eat gifts for all the family

Fancy getting up close with one of *ZSL London Zoo's* mischievous monkeys? Or having a sleeper in the heart of *ZSL Whipsnade Zoo*? Then look no further than *ZSL* for inspiration.

With beautiful hand-painted, animal themed jewellery from designers *And Mary* for the girls, cute animal alphabet mugs for the little ones, trendy t-shirts for the boys and even cushions with awesome animals on them to take home and treasure, the whole family is covered this Christmas.

ZSL and Bloomsbury's Wild Things books are on special offer this Christmas; for just £12 the little monster in your family can unwrap titles including *'The Lion who came to Lunch'*, a puppet of the animal featured, and a foam animal mask, to really bring the stories to life.

For the person who has everything, how about making magical memories this Christmas with a *VIP Meet the Animals* encounter, or go one



ADOPT A DARTMOOR PONY

development and progress of the pony you have chosen over the following year.

Ponies George, Charlie, Smartie and Rolo look forward to meeting you and to becoming part of your family! They live at the *Dartmoor Pony Heritage Trust Centre*, at Parke, Bovey Tracey in Devon.



December 2014



offers launching online and in-store *ZSL* is ready for Santa's helpers to fill their baskets.



December 2014

Greenall's

Here a great gift for mums and dads **The Original London Dry Gin** is distilled with eight unique botanicals to give a classic London Dry Gin with rich juniper notes, balanced with mature citrus and spice. *Greenall's* is available at most good supermarkets and wine stores, price £15.49.

The Greenall's Gift Box is exclusive to *Tesco* stores. New *Greenall's* Sloe Gin, price £16.00, available at *Sainsbury's* and *Tesco* stores. New *Greenall's* Wild Berry Gin, price £15.50, available at *Morrison's* and *Tesco* stores.

Christmas cocktail
Wild About You
50ml *Greenall's* Wild Berry Gin; 25ml Lemon Juice



Swimming Lessons

Quality classes in small group
** COME AND TRY A CLASS FREE **

Lessons for:

- Adults and Children from 2 yrs
- Non-swimmers -Improvers
- Advanced & SUPER Advanced

Classes held at:
Downsend School Ashted/Leatherhead
Epsom College

For more info contact Colin on 01372 739600

Follow us on:

Reclaim your social life!

Now you can find professional, experienced babysitters even at short notice. We interview each babysitter in person and check all references thoroughly. All have professional childcare experience with most being Registered Childminders or qualified Nursery Nurses & Nannies.

For your first booking FREE of any booking fee visit us at www.sitters.co.uk and quote promo code PNEW5FREE.

If you would like to discuss your childcare needs call Sitters on 08447 367 367.

Old Barn Stables

Waffrons Farm, Woodstock Lane South, Chessington, Surrey

A Friendly, Family Run Riding School

- ◆ BHS Qualified Instructors
- ◆ All ages & abilities
- ◆ Pony Days
- ◆ Lessons & Hacks
- ◆ Holiday Fun

Woodland Walk

For directions and info, call **020 8398 0822**

X Touch Gloves

For mums on the go...keep your gloves on and still use your touch screen mobile device ... welcome to the *X Touch Glove*, from extreme weather clothing brand *'Extremities'*.

Whether it's stylish school-run mums, sporty outdoor types, or techy grandparents; the *X Touch Glove* will prove the perfect stocking filler this Christmas.

Originally developed to allow explorers and adventurers to use GPS navigation tools in hostile weather environments, these thermal lightweight stretch fabric gloves have a conductive fleece forefinger and thumb for smartphone or tablet use as well as a silicone print palm for extra grip. They can also be used as a base layer beneath ski gloves.

Price: £25. Sizes XS, S/M, L/XL.



Available online at www.extremities.co.uk

Sew Fab

Sew Fab: Sewing and Style for Young Fashionistas by *Lesley Ware* teaches 8-13 year olds all they need to know to sew their very own unique wardrobe, tailored completely to their own style. Be a stylist and fashion designer in one with *Sew Fab*, the ultimate style and sewing workbook for any fashion-obsessed girl. Packed with gorgeous illustrations, step-by-step projects, tips and fun activities, for creating unique clothing and accessories in no time. *Sew Fab* will take you from new sewing recruit to 'Sew Ready' in no time! Reveal your inner Style Tribe, learn how to match colours to your skin tone and tread the fine line between fun and functional by mastering the art of accessorising. Unpick myths around hand stitches and discover the essential items of any sewing basket before launching your own projects!



Christmas Gifts



Rehab London

A gift for dad. This has been created with cutting edge natural science technology by a team of dermatologists, makeup artists and scientists who were asked to develop a brand that could fulfil the needs of the male complexion.

They came up with seven products that cater for different specific needs: Daily detox scrub, Argan oil shaving Gel, Calm balm post shaving balm, Morning glory moisturiser, shine free oil control lotion, revive survive anti-fatigue cream, Back to Matte anti shine gel

www.rehablondon.co.uk

COUNTRY RARE BREEDS CENTRE FARM PARK

So much to do you'll need more than a day

Book now to see Santa for a truly magical

Christmas

December 6th, 7th, 13th, 14th, 20th, 21st, 22nd & 23rd

Mr Wong returns with his Pantomime adventures!

Book online at rarebreeds.org.uk T 01233 861508



Please call before you go and please mention **PARENTS NEWS** www.parents-news.co.uk

Daily Rainbow Leisure Centre East Street 01372 727277 Toddlers World, under 5's.

Daily Lower Morden Garden Centre 020 8337 7781 Soft Play, under 5's.

Daily Sutton Ecology Centre Festival Walk Carshalton 020 8770 5820 Playworld fantasy play area, 2-10yrs.

Daily South Norwood Recreation Ground Car Green Road Croydon 020-8760 5707 Fitness Trails for adults & children of all fitness levels to get fit & keep fit. Positioned at each exercise station are signs showing the exercise to be undertaken with the suggested number of number repetitions.

Daily Kew Gardens, Kew Palace 020 8847 0946 **Daily** Walking Tours of seasonal highlights, **FREE**. **Every Sat** Tropical Nursery Tours, need to book. **Every Tues & Thurs** Orchid Nursery Tours, need to book. **Every Sat** Hands on Session Blowing in the wind stories of seed dispersal, **FREE**, no need to book.

Ongoing Dupax Hill Outdoor Gym Each item has clear instruction for its use under 12's.

Recently re-opened Kidplay Cafe 282-284 Lower Addiscombe Road Croydon Softplay & café, under 5's.

Every Sun YMCA Wimbledon 020 8542 9055 Volleyball sessions for all levels for local residents in Wimbledon & Merton, **FREE** from 12.30pm, info@wimbledonvolleyballclub.com, www.gospike.net.

Every Sun morn until 28 Dec **Beverley Park** Park View New Malden 020 8339 1594 Tennis Sessions, junior beginner coaching, 4-yrs, & adult beginner class.

Every Mon Secombe Theatre Cheam Road Sutton 020 8770 6990 Zumba fitness. **Every Tues** Line Dancing. **Every Wed** Ballroom Dance, under 8's to adults.

Every Mon Morden Library 020 8545 4040 Scrabble Club everyone is welcome. **Every Wed** Welcome Mornings with stories & crafts for pre-school children. **1st Thurs** of every month Coffee mornings for adults. **Every Fri** Storytime 4-yrs. **1st Fri** of each month Wellbeing drop in sessions, a Wellbeing Coordinator will be on hand to meet you face to face, talk through any issues you may have, sign you up for any upcoming workshops, tell you more about other services available in the borough, Tel: 020 3178 2549.

Every Mon Pollards Hill Library 020 8764 5877 Musical mayhem. **Every Mon** Employment Club improve your CV, covering letter,

interview skills & more. **Every Thurs** Salsa Dance classes, **FREE**. **Every Fri** storytimes. **Every Mon Wimbledon Library** 020 8946 7432 Jewellery drop in workshop for adults, **FREE**. **Every Tues** Coffee morning for over 50s. **Every Tues** IT also Basic IT Training. **Every Wed** Sewing Circle for adults, **FREE**. **Every Wed** French Conservation drop in classes, beginner & intermediate levels, for adults. **Every Wed** Teenage French Tutorials, 8-18yrs. **Every 1st Sat** of month Genealogy Sessions, get help tracing your ancestry, drop in session all ages. **Every Tues & Thurs** Children's story & rhyme time session. **Every Mon Kingston Children's Library** Wheatfield Way 020 8547 6438 Rhyme & storytime sessions for babies, toddlers & under 5's. **Every Thurs** Stories & crafts for under 5's. **Every Mon Parnmore Community Centre** 53-55 Parnmore Road 020 8726 6000 x88965 Circuit for those new to exercise, returning after illness & the more mature exerciser. **Every Mon eve Corpus Christi** 07956312920 Aerobics all abilities, 7-8pm. **Every Mon-Wed St James's Church Hall** Bodley Road New Malden 020 8942 2093, Toddlers Group, 9.30-11.30am

Every Mon, Wed & Fri during term time Little Hamsters Play Cafe Ham 07432 354274 Relaxed environment for mums & tots 0-5yrs offering coffee, cakes, lunches, soft play shapes, ball pool, ride on toys, table top activities & puzzles plus outdoor playground with indoor & outdoor seating, **FREE** parking. **FREE** Wi-Fi.

Every Tues Farnham Library www.bookstart.org.uk Baby Bounce 'n' Rhyme, **FREE**.

Every Tues Whitton Library 020 8734 3343 Storytime session, under 5's, **FREE**. **2nd Thurs** of month Tiny Teddies sessions baby bounce & rhyme, **FREE**.

Every Tues Hampton Wick Library 020 8734 3358 Storytime session, under 5's, **FREE**. **2nd Tues** of the month Chatterbooks reading group, 8-9yrs, **FREE**.

Every Tues Donald Hope Library 020 8542 1975 Storytime. **Every Thurs** Need Help with IT? A dedicated volunteer will be available to provide assistance with a wide range of IT issues, for more info **020 8274 5799**. **Every Fri** Rhymetime. **Every Sat** Colliers Wood Chess Club for all ages.

Every Tues Mitcham Library 020 8648 4070 Under 5's Storytime & Craft, fun activity, **FREE**. **Every Thurs CV & Careers Advice**. **Every Tues** of each month, Coffee Mornings. **Every Fri** Knitting Group, need to bring own needles.

Every Tues Malden Centre 020 83361561 Sat & Play for under 5's. **Every Thurs** young parents drop-in, 1-3pm. **Every Fri** Toy Library, under 5's, 10.30-1.30pm.

Every Tues Coudsdon Library 020 8726 6900 Bookstart Rhymetime for babies & toddlers, Wiggle & Jiggle, 2-4yrs. **Every Thurs** Storytime, 2½+yrs. **Every Sat** Storytime, under 7's, **FREE**.

Every Tues Ashburton Library 020 8726 6900 Bookstart Rhymetime for babies & toddlers. **Every Thurs** Wiggle & Jiggle for toddlers. **Every Mon** Chatterbooks drop in sessions, 8-11yrs. **Every Sat** Rock & Rhyme for babies & toddlers. **Every Wed** Social club for older people for a chat & a cup of tea. **Every Thurs** term time only storytime for under 7's, **FREE**.

Every Tues Purley Library 020 8726 6900 Bookstart Rhymetime for babies & toddlers & Wiggle & Jiggle, toddlers over 18mths. **Every Fri** Storytime 2½+yrs. **Every Sat** Rock & Rhyme for babies & toddlers, **FREE**.

Every Tues De Staffords Leisure Centre Caterham 01883 344355 Family Swim.

Every Tues Riddlesdown Circular Walk 020 8726 6000 x64952 Health walk, 2-3miles, meet 11am at 'Good Companions' pub, Hamsey Green, **FREE**.

Every Tues afternoon Raynes Park Library Story times for under 5's. **Every Thurs** mon Simple Yoga & Meditation Group.

Every Tues until 23 Dec Old Malden Library 020 8547 6467 Rhymetime up to 3yrs, and storytime for under 5's, **FREE**. **Every Sat** until 28 Dec rhymetime with rhymes & singing for under 5's, 10.30-11 a.m., **FREE**. **2nd Thurs** of the month chatterbooks plus book related puzzles & activities, 7-11yrs, 4-5 p.m., **FREE**. **Every Fri** on Fri until 19 Dec Knit & Natter.

Every Tues until 30 Dec Surbiton Library Ewell Road Surbiton 020 8547 6444 Rhyme & storytime for baby & toddlers, **FREE**. **Every Mon** Storytime for under 5's, **FREE**. **Every Thurs** Knitwits knitting group all abilities, 11-12.30 p.m., **FREE**. **Every 2nd Tues** of month Chatterbooks 9-11yrs, 4-5 p.m., **FREE**. **Every alternate Sats** until 20 Dec Silver Starers, beginners IT help, 10-12 p.m.

Every Wed Ursuline Prep School 18 The Downs Wimbledon 020 8947 0859 Mother & Toddler playgroup, in the nursery, play along with the toys & make use of the facilities plus a cup of tea is always available & well qualified & well trained nursery staff are on hand, **FREE**.

Every Tues & Thurs West Barnes Library 020 8274 5789 Classes for those wishing to learn to use the internet which runs for 6 weeks. **Every Tues** Rendezvous Club for over 55's. **Every month** Art Club for children, to put your child's name forward to join need to speak to member of staff in library. **Every Fri** Toddlers Rhyme Time & musical activities, 0-5yrs.

Every Tues-Fri Dickerage Adventure Playground Dickerage Lane Kingston 020-8942 1707 Parent & Toddler Play sessions.

Every Tues-Fri Dickerage Adventure Playground 020 8942 1707 Parent & Toddler Play

Every 3rd Wed of the month Richmond Library 020 8734 3303 Chatterbooks a reading group, 8-9yrs, 4.30pm, **FREE**. **1st Thurs** of month Tiny Teddies sessions baby bounce & rhyme, **FREE**.

Every Mon Hampton Library 020 8734 3347 Storytime session, under 5's, **FREE**. **3rd Thurs** of the month Chatterbooks reading group, 8-9yrs, 4pm, **FREE**.

Every Wed Charles Cryer Theatre 39 High Street Carshalton 020-8770 4950 Spiral Youth Theatre for 13+yrs members learn a variety of activities such as drama, dance & singing, musical theatre composition, set design & costume making culminating in two productions per year & **Every Thurs** Minis & Juniors 5-7yrs.

Every Wed Ham Library 020 8734 3354 Storytime session, under 5's, **FREE**. **1st Fri** of each month Tiny Teddies sessions baby bounce & rhyme, **FREE**.

Every Wed Watermans 40 High Street Brentford 020 8232 1010, mon Parents & babies screenings. **Every Sat** Drama Zone 5-8 & 9-14yrs. **Every Sat** mon Family Cinema, 1 adult goes **FREE** with every one paying child.

Every Wed Castlenau Library 020 8734 3350 Storytime session, under 5's, **FREE** One Sat a month Tiny Teddies sessions baby bounce & rhyme sessions, **FREE**.

Every Wed Hampton Hill Library 020 8734 3320 Storytime session, under 5's, **FREE**. **1st Sat** of every month Tiny Teddies sessions baby bounce & rhyme, **FREE**.

Every Wed Tolworth Library 37-39 The Broadway 020 8547 6470 Rhyme & storytime for under 5's with simple crafts, **FREE**. **Every Thurs 28 Nov-18 Dec** Get back to work group help available for filling in online application forms, looking for jobs online, CV's & basic computer skills if required, 2.15 p.m.-3.45 p.m., **FREE**.

Every Wed Tudor Hall Kingston 020 8893 4250 Jungle body fitness class using boxing, dance, cardio & pilates inspired moves, 7.30-8.30 p.m.

Every Wed Sandeaster Library 020 8726 6900 Bookstart rhymetime, babies & toddlers, Wiggle & Jiggle, 18mths+yrs, Storytime 2½+yrs. Fortnightly Rock & Rhyme for pre-school children, **FREE**.

Every Wed Unitarian Church 1 The Floyer 020 8726 6000 x88965 Zumba Latin inspired dance music & rhythms, all abilities.

Every Wed morn Sutton Arena Leisure Centre Middleton Road Carshalton 020 8770 4088 Women's Recreation Mornings with a wide range of sport & social activities available for one single fee, 9-12pm. **Daily** Playworld fantasy play area, 2-10yrs.

Every Wed until 18 Dec Hook & Chessington Library 020 8547 6480 Rhymetime with songs & rhymes followed by half an hour of playtime, 10.30-11 a.m., **FREE**. **Every Tues** until 16 Dec Get back to work group with help filling in online application forms, CV's & basic computer skills, 3-4.30 p.m., **FREE**.

Every Wed & Sun East Sheen Library Sheen Lane 020 8734 3337 Storytime session, under 5's, **FREE**. **3rd Wed** of the month Chatterbooks reading group, 8-9yrs, 4.30pm, **FREE**. **1st & 3rd Thurs** of month Tiny Teddies sessions baby bounce & rhyme, **FREE**.

Every Wed Ham Library 020 8734 3354 Storytime session, under 5's, **FREE**. **1st Fri** of each month Tiny Teddies sessions baby bounce & rhyme, **FREE**.

Every Thurs South Norwood Leisure Centre 164 Portland 020 8726 6000 x88965 Aquacise sessions.

Every Thurs in term time Sutton Christian Centre 020 8642 8117 Special Stars a baby & toddler group for children with disabilities or additional needs, from babies to pre-schoolers, siblings welcome.

Every Thurs until 18 Dec New Malden Library Kingston Road 020 8547 6438 Story time for under 5 yrs, **FREE**, 10.30-11 a.m. **Every Thurs 28 Nov-18 Dec** Get back to work group with job searching & application, CV writing, an IT drop in

Calendar

www.parents-news.co.uk

This information plus much more online



Twitter: @parentsnewsuk

Group

Every Thurs Tolworth Recreation Centre Fullers Way North Tolworth 020-8391 1882 Badminton Club for intermediate/advanced level, Tel: 020 8395 9175.

Every Thurs Bental Centre Kingston Air/Land or Sea, 'Make & Take' workshops children can create their own costume or T-shirt, **FREE**, www.kingstonfirst.co.uk.

Every Thurs Watch magic tricks & learn to do some at home held on 3rd floor.

Every Thurs Norbury Park and Norwood Grove 020 8726 6900 A circular walk through Norbury Park & Norwood Grove, 2-3 miles, meet at Norbury Train Station, 1.30pm. **FREE**. **21 Aug** Butterfly Walk, 2 hrs around the park to learn about these insects, 07968 832508.

Every Thurs Selsdon Baptist Church Addington Road 020 8726 6000 x88965 Circuits Low intensity for mature exercisers.

Every Thurs Croydon Sports College Croydon High School 020 8726 6000 x88965 Circuits Low intensity for mature exercisers.

Every Thurs South Norwood Leisure Centre 164 Portland 020 8726 6000 x88965 Aquacise sessions.

Every Thurs in term time Sutton Christian Centre 020 8642 8117 Special Stars a baby & toddler group for children with disabilities or additional needs, from babies to pre-schoolers, siblings welcome.

Every Thurs until 18 Dec New Malden Library Kingston Road 020 8547 6438 Story time for under 5 yrs, **FREE**, 10.30-11 a.m. **Every Thurs 28 Nov-18 Dec** Get back to work group with job searching & application, CV writing, an IT drop in

session for PC queries in partnership with Jobcentre Plus, 9.30-11 a.m. & 11-12.30 p.m., **FREE**. **Every Fri** Baby & toddler rhyme time up to 3yrs, **FREE**. **Every Sat** until 20 Dec Silver Surfing help for people wanting to gain more confidence in using the computer, alternate Saturdays, 9.30-11.30 a.m. **Every Sat** until 13 Dec Rhymetime for under 5's, 10.30-11 a.m., **FREE**. **1st Thurs** of the month Chatterbooks reading group 7-11yrs, 4-5 p.m., **FREE**. **1st Fri** of every month **Burgundy & Black Café** St Martins Walk Dorking Bumps & Babies is for mums with bumps & both parents or carers of non mobile babies, meet others for tea or coffee & get your baby socialising, www.nct.org.uk/branches/dorking/events/bumps-and-babies. **3rd Mon** of every month Nappuccino a natter about nappies as an alternative to disposables.

Every Fri New Malden Baptist Church Kingston Road New Malden 8942 6912 Tadpoles parent & toddler group.

Every Fri Broad Green Library 020 8726 6900 Bookstart Rhymetime 0-5yrs. **Fortnightly on Sat** Rock & Rhyme for pre-school children. **Every Wed** Arty Crafty computers drop in sessions for under 5's, parents & carers, **FREE**.

Every Fri Caterham Valley Library www.surrey.gov.uk/kidstuff Rhymetime, **FREE**. **Every Thurs** Storytime, **FREE**.

Every Fri Dorking Library www.surrey.gov.uk/kidstuff Rhymetime, **FREE**.

Every Fri Redhill Library www.surrey.gov.uk/kidstuff Rhymetime, **FREE**.

Every Fri Waringham Library www.surrey.gov.uk/

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kidstuff Storytime, **FREE**. **Every Fri Sutton Library** 020 8644 9696 Job Club volunteer led support group for job seeker, all ages, **FREE**, no need to book.

Every Fri Sutton Life Centre 020 8644 9696 Running & non contact boxing, 12-18yrs, **FREE**.

Every Fri Teddington Library Walgrave Road 020 8734 3304/5 Storytime session, under 5's, **FREE**.

Every 2nd Wed of the month Chatterbooks reading group, 8-9yrs, 4.20pm, **FREE**. **1st Thurs** of month Tiny Teddies sessions baby bounce & rhyme, **FREE**.

Every Fri Kew Library Storytime session, under 5's, **FREE**.

Every Fri Bradmore Green Library Old Coudsdon 020 8726 6000 X64952 Bookstart Rhymetime for babies & toddlers, Wiggle & Jiggle, 2-4yrs. **Every Mon** Storytime 2½+yrs & Chatterbooks the reading group for 8-11yrs. **Fortnightly** **Every Sat** Rhymetime, **FREE**.

Every Sat Heathfield Library 020 8734 3356 Storytime session, under 5's, **FREE**. **Last Tues** of each month Tiny Teddies sessions baby bounce & rhyme, **FREE**.

3rd & 4th Sat of the month **Norbiton Childrens Centre** KINGS OAK Primary Dickerage Lane 020 8949 6065 Who Let the dads out Play session for under 5's, 10-12.30pm.

3rd Sat of every month **Maple Road Surbiton Farmers Market** www.surbitonfarmersmarket.co.uk Offering a wide selection of fresh seasonal produce.

Every Sat The Green Dragon 58-60 High Street Croydon 020 8667 0684 Storytime for families 3-7yrs, drop in 2hr session with stories, puppets, arts activities & songs, **FREE**.

Every Sat Electric Theatre Onslow Street Guildford 01483444789 Little Sparks in the Café Bar with music, games, songs, stories & puppets & Sparkles Dance drop in classes for 5-9yrs.

Every Mon & Tues after school The Man in the Moon Weekly drama workshops, 6-14yrs. **Every Wed** All Star Choir, 8-14yrs.

Every Sat Wimbledon Park Free-standing Gazebo behind the sailing & watersport centre. Volleyball outdoor sessions for all levels for local residents in Wimbledon & Merton, **FREE** from 10-12pm, info@wimbledonvolleyballclub.com, www.gospike.net.

Every Sat morn Canbury Park Gardens Kingston Fitness in the Gardens low

impact outdoor cardio exercise for all with power walking, jogging & stretching, 10-11am, **FREE**, info@AHM-GO.com.

First Sat of every month New Malden Children's Centre Burlington Road New Malden 020 8336 1561 Saturdays Group with breakfast & fun activities for dads/male carers & their children up to 5yrs. **Every Mon** Stay & Play 0-18mths

Until 24 Dec Fairfield Halls Fairfield 020 8688 9291 Santa Claus & The Magical Christmas Journey, 2-yrs. **5 Dec-4 Jan** Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs, www.fairfield.co.uk.

Until 8 Feb Polka Theatre 240 The Broadway Wimbledon 020 8543 4888 Grandad, Me ... and Teddy Too, 2-5yrs.

Until 14 Feb Peter Pan with puppetry, 6-yrs, & www.polkatheatre.com.

2 Dec-4 Jan Rose Theatre 08444 821556 The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe. **11 Dec** Christmas Concert an evening of festive music & carols featuring local community, school & university choirs. **Every Mon** Rhyme Time bring the little ones to the Swallow Bakery for a **FREE** morning of rhyming, singing & laughter, www.rosetheatrekingston.org.

4-6 Dec Mill Studio Millbrook Guildford 01483 4400 01 The Wind in the Willows, all ages. **10-13 Dec** The Secret Garden. **14-28 Dec** The Night Before Christmas, 3-7yrs. **28 Dec-3 Jan** Story Pocket Theatre presents The Nutcracker, 4-yrs www.yvonne-arnaud.co.uk.

5 Dec Stoneleigh Broadway Christmas Lights switch on with Town Crier, food & gift stalls, Punch & Judy in the Trix Café & Father Christmas will be in the Scout shop plus mini fun fair rides, 4-7pm, www.epson-ewell.gov.uk.

5-7,12-14,19,21-27,29 Dec, 2-4 Jan Richmond Park 020 7036 8056 Sleigh Rides begins at Holly Lodge where you will be met with warm refreshments, a unique behind the scenes visit of the working stables, as your horses are harnessed for your ride. You will then take your place in a Landau carriage with just 4 other passengers for a 60 minute ride through Richmond Park.

5 Dec-4 Jan Yvonne Arnaud Theatre Millbrook Guildford 01483 440000 Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs, **12 Dec** Relaxed performance especially for families with children with an Autistic Spectrum Condition. **15 Jan** Jongleurs comedy On The Road. **16 Jan** Mowtown's Greatest Hits, How Sweet It

Is. **22-27 Dec** A Christmas Carol, www.yvonne-arnaud.co.uk.

6-7 Dec London Wetland Centre Queen Elizabeth's Walk Barnes 020 8409 4400 Father Christmas will be ready to welcome families in his grotto among the trees, you can also meet the family of reindeer including a six month old baby & discover more about these animals from the north. Plus children will be able to hop aboard for a husky sleigh ride. **14 Dec** 'Pigglepop', A TT Workshop performed by children for a family audience. **14 Dec** Introduction to Birdwatching. **6-7,13-14 Dec Rural Life Centre** Farnham 01252 795571 Christmas Wonderland Weekends in the grotto Father & Mother Christmas will give a present to each child helped by a host of fairies, gnomes & elves. Each day there will be live animals such as reindeer, sheep, donkeys & calves for children to pet. Plus there will be a chance to ride through the woods on the Old Kiln Light Railway, a visit to the gnomes toy workshop plus refreshments & lots more festive cheer, www.rural-life.org.uk.

6-23 Dec Royal Botanic Gardens Kew 020 7222 1234 Santa's Grotto meet

Father Christmas in his grotto. **6 Dec-4 Jan** Face Painting get the kids' faces painted with a festive fun design in Climbers & Creepers. **6 Dec-4 Jan** Twelve Trees of Christmas Father Christmas will be ready to welcome families in his grotto among the trees, you can also meet the family of reindeer including a six month old baby & discover more about these animals from the north. Plus children will be able to hop aboard for a husky sleigh ride. **14 Dec** 'Pigglepop', A TT Workshop performed by children for a family audience. **14 Dec** Introduction to Birdwatching. **6-7,13-14 Dec Rural Life Centre** Farnham 01252 795571 Christmas Wonderland Weekends in the grotto Father & Mother Christmas will give a present to each child helped by a host of fairies, gnomes & elves. Each day there will be live animals such as reindeer, sheep, donkeys & calves for children to pet. Plus there will be a chance to ride through the woods on the Old Kiln Light Railway, a visit to the gnomes toy workshop plus refreshments & lots more festive cheer, www.rural-life.org.uk.

6-23 Dec Royal Botanic Gardens Kew 020 7222 1234 Santa's Grotto meet

10 Dec Dorking Halls 01306 881717 RatPack show

12-14 Dec Guildford Spectrum 01483 443333 Sleeping Beauty on Ice.

13 Dec-4 Jan Epsom Playhouse Ashley Avenue 01372 742555 Wizard of Oz, www.epsonplayhouse.co.uk.

20 Dec Ashley Centre 020 8394 1734 Christmas songs & carols joined by the Mayor with a collection for the Mayor's charities, www.epson-ewell.gov.uk.

21 Dec The Market Place Epsom 01372 732000 Bethlehem Peace Light a short multi faith service in partnership with the 7th Epsom Methodist Scout Group, Churches together in Epsom, the Hindu Community of Epsom & Ewell, the Baha'i community of Epsom & Ewell & the Borough Council, www.epson-ewell.gov.uk.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

What's On in London & Out and About
Page 10 & 11



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Education

Penguin Children's Christmas Gift Guide 2014

Pre-School & Picture Books 6 Years

The Spectacular Tale of Peter Rabbit by **Emma Thompson**, illustrated by Eleanor Taylor Oscar-winning actress and screenwriter Emma Thompson triumphs once more with a tale that makes the everyday simply SPECTACULAR. "It was high summer and a

travelling fun-fair had come to the village...Peter Rabbit and Benjamin were forbidden to attend..."£12.99 Hardback *Peter Rabbit's Christmas Collection* by **Beatrix Potter** A festive treasure-trove of original Beatrix Potter stories, letters and illustrations, brought together in one Christmas collection.

This treasury is perfect for all fans of Beatrix Potter and Peter Rabbit, young and old, and including little-known material, cards, letters and stories.

RRP £14.99 Hardback *Snow Day* by **Richard Curtis**, illustrated by Rebecca Cobb A heart-warming winter tale

from writer and director Richard Curtis, and Rebecca Cobb, the powerhouse behind *The Empty Stocking*.

A snowy day, a deserted school and the teacher you least want to see. Welcome to Snow Day, the most magical day of the year... RRP £10.99 Hardback

Top tips to boost young children's Christmas excitement

It's getting close to Christmas so postbags across the country are stuffed full of hopeful letters to Santa. **Mark O'Donnell**, the new headmaster of *St Martin's Ampleforth*, the prep school at *Ampleforth College*, has over 200 excited children eagerly awaiting a fun-filled festive season and has provided some tips on how to manage children's excitement in a way which puts the true meaning back into the holiday season. Mark says: "For parents, channeling young children's Christmas excitement can be both fun and challenging. Finding a balance between the 'giving' and 'receiving' messages are key to a fulfilling festive season."

1. Outside and Festive – Playing in the great outdoors is a fantastic way to wear out excited kids. Ampleforth is set in two thousand acres of scenic Yorkshire countryside so whether it's building a snowman, sledging or an old fashioned country ramble, busy days mean children sleep well.

2. Nativity – Popular film "Love, Actually" showed there's great diversity in nativity plays and this is true across the country. Helping build excitement for your

child's school nativity is a great way to encourage creativity and confidence and their first experience on stage is memorable for both the parent and child.

3. Church Service – Being a Benedictine school, we have lots of traditional church services around the festive season, but also a big focus on working the earth and being part of nature which is reflected in our Gardening Club where the children are able to collect holly and pine cones to make Christmas wreaths.

4. School-made creations – Here at *St. Martin's* we have a 20ft Christmas tree with all the decorations made by the children at the school. It's a great way to keep the children entertained and get them involved in some creative Christmas crafting.

5. Story Time – Reading an extract from a child's favourite book can be one way to keep a youngster's attention, as can reading a child's version of Luke chapter 2, the nativity story. Also, older children can keep younger children occupied by playing board games or other activities. www.ampleforth.org.uk

December 2014

December 2014 Learn to Read in 4 Weeks for FREE*

with *Reading Eggs!* Full of educationally sound, fun and interactive activities, *Reading Eggs* focuses on the most fundamental skill needed in school: **reading**. Children from 3 to 7 years of age, or older children struggling with reading, will enjoy the huge variety of reading lessons, activities and games that make up the *Reading Eggs* programme.

Reading Eggspress continues the reading adventure by taking children to a brand new world designed for 7-13 year olds, focusing on comprehension and grammar. *Reading Eggspress* provides a unique learning environment where students' can improve their English language and comprehension skills in a way that is exciting and relevant. These programmes provide a

comprehensive range of online lessons that teach children aged 3-13 the literacy skills needed for lifetime reading success. The reason why over 90% of parents using *Reading Eggs* and *Reading Eggspress* report a noticeable improvement in their child's reading skills is because the programme makes learning fun.

Sign up for a special 4 WEEK FREE trial* and see for yourself how your child's reading improves by using *Reading Eggs* and *Reading Eggspress*.

Register your child at www.readingeggs.co.uk/parentnews Registration is quick, easy and FREE!

*Free trial only available to new customers who sign up at the above address. Not applicable for schools.

Employer action makes TechFuture Girls open to all

Thanks to generous sponsorship from employers, *TechFuture Girls*, will now be available free to all schools.

TechFuture Girls, formerly known as *CC4G*, is a well-established resource for after school or lunchtime clubs, aimed at girls aged 10-14. Since its launch in 2005, more than 150,000 girls have benefited from its mix of activities, games and projects, all designed to build girls' skills and confidence in technology. The materials are developed in close collaboration with employers, and teach universally applicable skills like coding, cyber security, data management and video editing, but are themed around girls' interests, like music, sport or fashion. Regularly refreshed to reflect the fast moving world of technology, *TechFuture Girls* is aligned with the latest changes in the computing curriculum, and reflects the introduction of coding to all age groups.

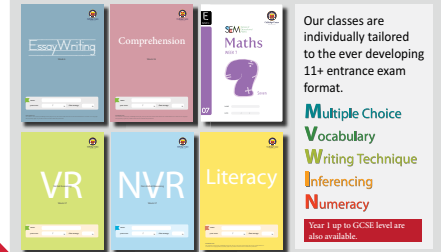
Platinum sponsor *HP* has taken the lead in this initiative, with generous support from Gold sponsors *BT*, *National Grid* and *Oracle*. This considerable backing means that more than 20,000 schools can now access the programme without charge.



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Oxbridge Centre is a well-established tuition centre based in New Malden. Currently there are around 500 students from year 1-A-Level studying at the centre. Why don't you join us too?



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**Learn to Read in 4 Weeks
FREE with Reading Eggs!**

The multi-award winning online reading programme for 3-13 year olds.

With hundreds of reading lessons and activities to explore, sign up for our special **4 WEEK TRIAL*** and see first-hand how your child's reading can improve in just 4 weeks! *Reading Eggs* provides a comprehensive range of online reading lessons and eBooks that teach children aged 3-13 the literacy skills needed for lifetime reading success.

The reason why over 90% of parents using *Reading Eggs* report a noticeable improvement in their child's reading skills is because the programme makes learning phonics and basic reading skills fun.

Sign up for our special **4 WEEK FREE trial*** and see for yourself how your child's reading improves by using *Reading Eggs*.



FREE 4 WEEK TRIAL*

Register today at

www.readingeggs.co.uk/parentnews

Registration is quick, easy and FREE Offer ends 28th February 2015

*Free trial only available for new customers who sign up at the above address. Not applicable to schools

Day Trips

New LegoLand Windsor 01753 621621 Pirates Landing gets a major revamp to become New Pirates Shores featuring Castaway Camp a new pirate adventure play area with more than 100 brand new Lego modes & themed features on the Pirate Falls Treasure Quest log flume ride, plus a new themed restaurant plus lots more to offer.

Until 21 Dec **Alfriston Clergy House** Polegate 01323 870001 See the house decorated for Christmas throughout the ages, with medieval & Victorian seasonal foliage.

Until 23 Dec **Bateman's** Burwash 01435 882302 A Kipling family Christmas see the atmospheric home of Rudyard Kipling decorated for Christmas & try a special children's Christmas trail leading to an elves' workshop. **26 Dec** Boxing Day breakfast & walk. **1 Jan** New Year's Day breakfast & walk.

Until 31 Dec **Bluewater Shopping Mall** Dartford

Science Museum Store Pop up with live experiments & demonstrations taking place all day long whilst you get the chance to shop, children can play with all the latest toys, gadgets & goodies.

Until 4 Jan **Royal Naval Museum** 02392 73 7562 Biggles & Chums – First World War watercolours & works on paper art exhibition. **FREE. Until 30 Mar** Horrible Science of Submarines exhibition www.submarine-museum.co.uk.

Until 18 Jan **Royal Pavilion Ice Rink** Brighton Ice Skating.

6,7,13,14,20-22 Dec **Bodiam Castle** Robertsbridge 01580 830196 Christmas at the Castle with Christmas traditions old & new with a Father Christmas castle grotto, making mummung masks & wassailing. **6,7,13,14,20-23 Dec** Christmas lunches.

11 Dec **Royal Naval Submarine Museum** 023 92 545034 Christmas Carol concert with members of Portsmouth Cathedral Choir,

all profits will go towards the maintenance of HMS Alliance, www.submarine-museum.co.uk.

24 Dec **Explosion Museum of Naval Firepower** 023 9250 5600 Meet Santa

20 Dec-4 Jan **Royal Marines Museum** Portsmouth 023 9281 9381 Get Me Out of Here: Survival in the Arctic test your arctic survival skills in winter themed art activities. **7 Dec** Christmas Gala Concert , tickets **023 9281 9385**.

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London Calendar

From 5 Nov **Tower of London** Tower Hill London 0844 482 7799 Twilight Tours

Every weekend **London Transport Museum** 39 Wallington Street Covent Garden London 020 7379 6344 The Family Station choose some **FREE** activities to do as you explore the museum, families all ages. **Ongoing** Family Station All Year Round activities for families, 3-12yrs.

Ongoing **Royal Mews Buckingham Palace** 020 7766 7302 Family groups may explore a range of self directed activities from the art trolley, 5-11yrs. **Every weekend** **Ongoing Science Museum Imax Theatre** 0870 870 4688 Mysteries of the Unseen World, daily screenings, 8+yrs.

Ongoing **Royal Academy of Arts** 020 7300 8000 www.royalacademy.org.uk New policy all children under 12yrs of age will have **FREE** entry to all exhibitions.

Every Sun **National Gallery** 020 7747 2885 Family workshops for families bringing paintings alive & listening to a themed story on the magic carpet, plus **FREE** family trail, www.nationalgallery.org.uk.

Every Sun **Hildreth Street Market** Balham SW12 Street Market with fresh food traders sourced from all over London. **Every 2nd Sat of month** **National Geographic Store** 83-97 Regent Street 020 7025 6960 Animal Man comes face to face with slithering snakes, slimy insects & smelly skunks. Meet a wide variety of animals to include owls, lizards, tortoises, armadillos, meerkats & lots more, hands on activities are led by AnimalMan Nick Spellman for all ages.

Every Sat **Venue Street Market, Chiswick Common** 020 7622 8259 Offering fine foods & fresh produce plus a variety of handmade crafts will be available throughout Dec with gifts & cards for all the family as well as Christmas trees & floral decorations. Christmas trees will be available.

Every Sat **Blue Elephant Theatre** Camberwell 020 7701 0100 Young People's Theatre workshops, various age groups 7-18yrs. **FREE** to join. **Every Sat 2-4pm & after school on Tue & Thurs** **South London Gallery** 65 Peckham Road 020 7703 6120 The Shop of Possibilities for children & families living on five neighbouring estates, Pelican, Southampton Way, Elmington, Wyndham & Comber, & Sceaux Gardens are invited to play at after school & weekend workshops in this recently renovated former retail outlet on the Sceaux Gardens housing estate.

Every weekend **Rich Mix** Bethnal Green 020 7613 7498 Kids' Cine Time family films. **Every weekend** **Temple Station** 020 7222 1234 Harry Potter Locations Tours 2, ½ hrs.

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Every weekend **Greenwich ClocktowerMarket** Greenwich High Road Quirky weekend market has 50 stalls specialising in vintage, retro & antiques with **FREE** entry, www.clocktowermarket.co.uk.

Every weekend **Tate Britain** Millbank London 020 7887 8888 Liminal invites visitors into a physical, material & social experience of sculpture through touch, interaction & collaboration, all ages. **FREE. Every weekend** Art Trolley sessions encourages children to imagine & create collages & lots more. **FREE. Every weekend** Children's Multimedia Guide fun & interactive a sensory experience for all the family to enjoy, 5+yrs. **Daily** Family Resources provides questions & activities which encourage children & families to explore art works, **FREE. Daily** Family Trails, under 5's, **FREE.**

Until 23 Dec **Peter Harrison Planetarium** 020 8858 4422 Christmas Stars theme show, 5+yrs. **Throughout Dec** **Dark Universe show**, 5+yrs. **27-31 Dec** **Sky tonight Live**, 5+yrs. **Every Tues in Dec & Jan** **Space Safari under 7's**, **Every Thurs in Dec & Jan** **Solar System, Galaxy, Universe show**, 5+yrs. **Every Mon, Wed & Fri in Dec & Jan** Meet the Neighbours interactive show, 5+yrs, www.rmg.co.uk.

Until 24 Dec **Canary Wharf Christmas Market** Buzzing with stalls offering seasonal food & drink plus original handcrafts & unique gifts. Choose from personalised Christmas decorations, hot chestnuts, handmade soap, wooden toys, mulled wine & lots more, www.canarywharf.com.

Until 24 Dec **Jubilee Park Canary Wharf** Santa's Grotto plus children's festive activities. Children are invited to make their own sweet treats using icing sugar sprinkles & sweeties at the Cookie & Cupcake Decorating workshop plus lots more, **FREE**, www.canarywharf.com.

Until 31 Dec **HMS Belfast** Tooley Street London 020 7940 6320 020 7403 0719(f) D-Day Family Trail bringing visitors through the ship while pointing out interesting facts that relate to D-Day. 10-11 Jan **Cracking Codes** decipher secret messages, family activity, intercept messages, map hazards on the sea chart & make up your own secret code, all ages. **FREE** with entrance fee. **Ongoing** HMS Belfast Private Tours with exclusive behind the barrier access, discover some of the quirky sailors' stories of living & working on board including the time a reindeer joined the crew! **Ongoing** Gun Turret Experience www.ivm.org.uk

Until 4 Jan **Science Museum** Exhibition Rd London 0870 470 8868 3D Printing the future exhibition for all ages. **FREE. Daily** Interactive experience: Flyzone Studio a new experience that transports visitors using the latest in green screen technology. Children, adults & families are able to come along & dress up as pilots or astronauts & then take away photographs of themselves flying through the air or exploring Space, all ages. **Every weekend** **Icy Cool** Adventure families, under 7's, **FREE. Every Weekend** **Sandcastle** at the London

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December 2014

Designer Outlet, plus Xmas Market, traditional rides plus every skater will receive a **FREE** hot chocolate, www.iceskatingatwembleypark.co.uk. **Until 4 Jan** **Royal Air Force Museum** Grahame Park Way Hendon London 020 8205 2266 Biggles & Chums- First World War watercolours & works on paper exhibition. **Ongoing** Airfix exhibition with some of Airfix's most popular models from the 50,60s & 70's.

Until 4 Jan **Hackney Empire** 117 Wilton Street London 020 8985 2424 Mother Goose, www.hackneyempire.co.uk.

Until 4 Jan **Imperial War Museum** Lambeth Road 020 7416 5439 Horrible Histories exhibition families can make their way through the exhibition, encountering themes such as Ruthless Resistance, Cracking Codes, Great Gadgets, Savage Sabotage & Clever Camouflage plus how to make invisible ink, crack codes & use fake feet. **Until 4 Jan** A Family in Wartime exhibition, **FREE** entrance. **Until 4 Jan** **Secret War** exhibition, **FREE** entrance. **4,11,18,25 Jan** Object handling session, families can explore objects from the collections & how they connect with iconic objects on display, families all ages. **FREE. 4,11,18,25 Jan** Creative Response, get creative, make a drawing, take a photograph, write a postcard & share your ideas with the museum, families, all ages. **FREE. 24-25 Jan** Holocaust Memorial Day discussion & replica object handling session a useful starting point for families who wish to learn about the Holocaust, 11+yrs. **Every Sun** Object Conservations family object handling sessions & Creative Response make a creative response to themes held within the new atrium & Terraced Galleries. **Ongoing** A Family in Wartime exhibition explores the lives of William & Alice Allpress & their ten children & what life in London was like during the war. A Family in Wartime is brought to life through interactive exhibits, photographs, recorded interviews with the family, archive film footage & more. **FREE. Until 8 Mar** Truth & Memory: British Art of the first World War art exhibition. www.ivm.org.uk

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Every weekend A Cockroach Tour of the museum visitors take on the form of cockroaches dressing up in realistic costumes, **FREE. Every Weekend** explore hundreds of real natural history specimens, discover evidence along the way using microscopes, the computer database & other scientific instruments, science educators are there to help you with your investigations. **FREE. Ongoing** Engineer Your Future exhibition, 11+yrs, **FREE. www.scienceuseum.org.uk**

Until 4 Jan **Natural History Museum** Cromwell Road London 020 7942 5000 Ice Rink with beginners & advanced skaters alike who can enjoy the 1,000 sq metre rink, this year there will be an interactive Christmas chalet bringing to life the Lindt Bear & other chocolate favourites, plus complimentary tuffles to sample. www.nhm.ac.uk/whats-on. **Until 28 Feb** **Canary Wharf Ice Rink** Canada Square Park 0870 4000 601 This year the rink will be bigger & better than ever before suitable for families, www.canarywharf.com.

2-5,8-12 Dec **Chelsea Physic Garden** London 020 7552 5646 Festive shopping days. **29,16 Dec & 13,20,27 Jan** **Queen's House** Greenwich 020 8858 4422 Play Tuesdays, under 5's. **6,13,20,27 Dec & 10,11,7,24 & 31 Jan** Discover Saturdays meet a character from the past & take part in an exciting performance that will bring maritime history to life, 6+yrs, **FREE. 7,14,21,28 Dec & 11,18,25 Jan** Discover Sundays explore your personal connections to the sea, all ages. **FREE. School hols 22,23,27-30 Dec & 2 Jan** The lighthouse keeper her stories & make a parcel to take with you, all ages. **FREE. 22,23,27-30 Dec & 2 Jan** Bath-toy buoys be inspired by the colourful buoys that helped sailors navigate around the sea safely & create a bath toy to take home, all ages, **FREE. www.rmg.co.uk/cutysark**

2-31 Dec **Hackney's Victoria Park** Tower Hamlets Winterville celebrating East London's cultural collectives & family events, theatre, music & food. Kid's Quarter travelling arts circus House of Fairy Tales Santa's Grotto. Robin Hood pantomime, horse drawn carriages, ice rink, roller disco, & fairground rides a big wheel & lots more. There will also be world street food & Christmas markets, indoor pup & food courts. www.winterville.co.uk

Until 11 Jan **Greenwich**

London Calendar

www.parents-news.co.uk
This infomation plus much more online



Twitter: @parentsnewsuk

Theatre Crooms Hill London 020 8858 7755 Jack & the Beanstalk pantomime, www.greenwichtheatre.org.uk. **Until 17 Jan** **Royal Opera House** Covent Garden London 020 7300 4040 The Wind in the Willows brought to life through song, music, dance & puppetry for all the family, 5+yrs, www.trinitylaban.ac.uk/whats-on. **Until 28 Feb** **Canary Wharf Ice Rink** Canada Square Park 0870 4000 601 This year the rink will be bigger & better than ever before suitable for families, www.canarywharf.com.

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Until 11 Jan **Greenwich**

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Kensington High Street Charity Carol concert with Emilia & Freddie Fox reading, raising funds for the international charity Hope & Homes for Children, www.hopeandhomes.org, Tel:01722 790111. **4,5 Dec** **Laban Creekside** London 020 8691 8600 BA3 Musical Theatre Show, **FREE**, advance booking needed, www.trinitylaban.ac.uk/whats-on. **6 Dec** **Victoria & Albert Museum** Cromwell Road 020 7942 2000 www.vam.ac.uk Making it, Careers in Art & Design young people find out more about working in the creative industries, & discuss career options, **FREE**, drop in, 16-24yrs. **7 Dec** Digital Kids have fun creating your own digital art with help from experts, drop in, families 5+yrs, **FREE. 27 Dec** Pop-Up performances children join a dance performance & interactive workshop surrounding the world of The Nutcracker ballet, **FREE**, drop in for all the family. **27 Dec** Imagination Station materials from desk to create designs inspired by the magical & surreal world of turn of the century **FREE**, drop in, families 3+yrs. **Every Sun** Drop in Design on selected days, participants can create a 3D sculpture with wire inspired by the museum's collections, **FREE**, drop in, 5+yrs. **Daily** Back Packs families filled with jigsaws, stories & games to explore the collection, 4-11yrs, Activity Card hands on art fun for children to create a Samurai helmet, a silver goblet or an elephant mask to take home, **FREE**, drop in www.vam.ac.uk. **6-7 Dec** **Cutty Sark** King William Walk Greenwich 020 8858 3445 Family fun weekend, create a Christmas harbour scene with ships & a shimmering sea to turn into a card or hang up at home, all ages. **29-30 Dec** Create a wool fluffy sheep made with wool just like the cargo Cutty Sark used to carry all the way

from Australia, all ages. **Every weekend throughout Dec** Cutty Sark characters stories brought to life by characters from the ship's past, 3+yrs, activities **FREE** with entry, www.rmg.co.uk/cutysark. **6-7 Dec** **East Wintergarten** Santa's Magical Silver Reindeer Christmas tale performed with classic festive songs for families, tickets www.canarywharf.com. All proceeds will be donated to Rommy's the baby charity. **16 Dec** Carols & Candles Service special service for those working in & around Canary Wharf, www.canarywharf.com.

6-7 Dec **Horiman Museum** London Road Forest Hill Horiman Christmas Fair enjoy festive treats & lots more, **FREE. 13 Dec** Hands on Family workshops themed sessions for families, 3+yrs, **FREE. 13 Dec** ArtMakers create a pretty Roman Christmas Star to take home, adults & children, 3+yrs, **14 Dec** A World of Stories, families, 5+yrs, **FREE. 14 Dec** Discovery for All explore thousands of real objects from around the world with the museum's Explainers, all ages & adults, **FREE. Every Tues & Wed until 17 Dec** Busy Bees sessions for under 5's with crafts, creative play stories, & songs, **FREE. Every Sat** Art Makers have fun with different art techniques to create something fabulous to take home, for families, 3+yrs, **Every Sat** Farmers Market, **FREE** entry. **24 Jan** The Big Garden Birdwatch take part in the biggest birdwatch happening across the UK, join in activities all about garden birds including helping to count different birds in the Gardens & finding out about birdsong & making puppets, **FREE. www.horiman.ac.uk**

6-7,13-14 Dec & daily 19-24 Dec **London Zoo** Regent's Park London 020 7722 3333 Meet Santa in his grotto & enjoy a fun packed day with Christmas themed activities, www.zsl.org. **7 Dec** **Museum of Childhood** Bethnal Green 020 8983 5200 Snowflakes interactive reading of book followed by a book signing, 3+yrs. **Daily** Back-Packs filled with jigsaws, stories & games to explore the collections plus special packs available for families with children on the autistic spectrum, **FREE. 21 July** It's My Party display explores children's birthday parties from the perspective of both children & adults, **FREE.**

7 Dec **Parasol Unit** 14 Wharf Road Islington 020 7490 7775 Family workshop families will experiment with drawing & mark making techniques developing letterforms & words into a concertina book, need to book, 5-15yrs.

13 Dec **King Charles Court** Old Royal Naval College Greenwich 020 8269 4799

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9 Dec-4 Jan **Unicorn Theatre** for Children 147 Tooley Street London 0745 0560 It's Baby's First Christmas a sensory show for babies 6-18mths duration 40 mins including 15 mins play time. **Until 14 Jan** The Nutcracker & the Mouse King, 8+yrs. **Until 4 Jan** The Fourth Wise Man, 4+yrs. **9-25 Jan** The Polar Bears Go Wild, 2+yrs, www.unicorntheatre.com. **11-23 Dec** **The Young Vic Theatre Company** The Cut London 020 7922 2922 The New Back Home a brand new opera featuring puppetry & animations, 5+yrs, www.youngvic.org.

11 Dec-4 Jan **Lilian Baylis Theatre** at Sadlers Wells Portugal Street London 020 7863 8000 The Little MatchGirl, www.sadlerswells.com. **15-21 Dec** **Bloomsbury Theatre** Gordon Street London 020 7388 8822. The Santa Claus Science Experiment is an alternative pant to puts the Science back into Christmas for all ages, www.thebloomsbury.co.uk. **15-22 Dec** **Alexandra Palace Ice Rink** 01536 481778 The Snow Queen on ice for families, www.alexandrapalace.com/whats-on-the-snow-queen-on-ice.

16-18 Jan **Alexandra Palace & Park** London 020 8365 2121 London Model Engineering Exhibition see the full spectrum of modelling from traditional model engineering, steam locomotives & traction engines through to airfix kits, operational miniatures & modern gadgets & toys including futuristic rockets & remote control trucks, boats, aeroplanes, helicopters & robots, www.londonmodelengineering.co.uk

12-13 Dec **The Royal Observatory** Greenwich 020 8858 4422 An Evening with the Stars, 7+yrs. **Until 14 Jan** Longitude Punk'd celebrates the creation of wacky inventors, all ages. **Until end of Feb** Astronomy Photographer of the Year exhibition, entrance, **FREE. www.rmg.co.uk/visit**

13 Dec **King Charles Court** Old Royal Naval College Greenwich 020 8269 4799

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